

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4044

MLN Matters Number: MM4044

Related CR Release Date: September 23, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 685

Effective Date: December 27, 2005

Implementation Date: December 27, 2005

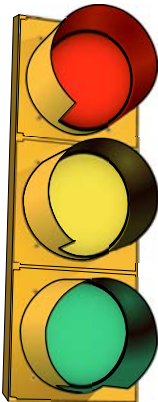
Redesigned Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Annual Update File and Discontinuation of the SNF Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Help File

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Providers billing intermediaries

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4044, which notifies providers that the SNF HCPCS Help File is discontinued. A new SNF CB web site for providers billing intermediaries, including a new redesigned Annual Update file, is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFPSP/05_ConsolidatedBilling.asp on the CMS web site.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has redesigned the SNF CB Annual Update file and created a new Fiscal Intermediary (FI) SNF CB web page to enable an easier search for specific HCPCS codes, and determination of whether an HCPCS code is excluded from SNF CB.

GO – What You Need to Do

See the *Background* section of this article for further details regarding this change.

Background

Change Request (CR) 4044 announced that CMS is discontinuing the SNF Help File and is redirecting contractors and providers to a new FI SNF CB web page, which provide more current and accurate information on SNF Consolidated Billing (CB).

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Note: The SNF Help File is **not** current and should **not** be used as a guide to determine whether services provided to Medicare beneficiaries are included or excluded from SNF CB.

With the removal of the SNF Help File, CMS has redesigned the SNF CB Annual Update file in Excel® and PDF formats to enable providers to more easily:

- Search for a specific HCPCS code; and
- Determine if the HCPCS code is excluded from SNF CB.

SNF Consolidated Billing Annual Update

Instead of accessing the SNF Help File, providers should access the latest/redesigned SNF CB Annual Update to determine whether a service is excluded from SNF CB. The Annual Update can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/90_2005_FI_Update.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS web site.

This web site contains information that may be used by providers and FIs to determine, by HCPCS code, whether services rendered to beneficiaries in Part A covered SNF stays are included or excluded from CB. The file contains three columns:

- HCPCS Code;
- Short Descriptor; and
- Major Category.

A separate file containing an explanation of the Major Categories will also be included. **It is important and necessary for providers to view this file** to understand the Major Categories (including additional exclusions) that are not driven by HCPCS codes.

In addition, providers may want to access the above CMS web site to view the current file as well as previous updates to SNF CB. HCPCS codes (added or removed by subsequent quarterly update transmittals) will be listed under the respective year's annual update tab at the above web site, and the respective year's annual update file will be updated to either add or remove the HCPCS listed in the quarterly updates.

Implementation

The implementation date for the instruction is December 27, 2005.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your intermediary regarding this change.

That instruction may be viewed by going to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R685CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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